



# **Massachusetts Solid Waste Master Plan Review Landfills Last**

John Fischer

MassDEP SWAC

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# Environmental Policy Context

- New administration
- New policy drivers – energy and climate change
- Waste/materials management closely connected
- Solid Waste Master Plan top MassDEP priority

# Opportunities

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- Additional diversion
- More efficient resource use
- Avoided disposal costs
- Job creation/economic development
- Contribution to climate change/energy goals

# Materials Management Framework

- SWMP traditional focus
- Shift from **waste** to **materials** management
- Dramatically different perspective
- Calling “Landfills Last”

# Background – Master Plan

- Beyond 2000 SWMP – December 2000
  - Ten-year vision
  - Solid waste goals and policy framework
- 2006 Revision
  - Mid-course correction
  - Update, revise program strategies

## Background - Data

- Flat picture from 2000-2006
- Waste reduction up from 58% to 60%
- Recycling flat at 47%

## Background - Data

- Generation up 13 to 13.9 mill tons (7%)
- Disposal **only** up from 6.5 to 6.6 mill tons (1%)
- Diversion up from 6.5 to 7.3 mill tons (13%)

# Avoidable Costs/Lost Opportunities

- Paying \$70-80/ton to dispose 1.5 mill tons paper with value of >\$100 million
- Nearly 3 million tons potential additional diversion for paper and organics alone
- Nationally – 70 tons upstream waste/ton disposed



# Landfills Last Approach

- Maximize efficient, sustainable materials use
- Minimize waste disposal
- Wide array of diversion options
  - Up-stream waste reduction
  - Recycling, Composting
  - Anaerobic digestion
  - Produce fuels or energy

# Landfills Last Approach

- Reduce toxicity of waste stream
  - Focus on toxicity of products and packaging
- Increased emphasis
  - Up-stream waste reduction
  - Using materials for fuels, energy

# Landfills Last Approach

- Desired outcomes
  - Reduced emissions (GHG, other pollutants)
  - Natural resource conservation
  - Lifecycle energy savings
  - Reduced materials management costs
  - Business development – WR infrastructure & expertise
  - Technology development

## Next Steps

- At conceptual stage now
- May/June – ramp up development
- Late summer/early fall – issue proposal
- SWMP Revision – public comment and hearing

## Next Steps

- Seeking input, engagement, support
- Looking for input from traditional stakeholder groups
- Also others who can contribute useful knowledge, expertise, new perspectives

# Contact Information

John Fischer

Branch Chief, Waste and Toxics Planning  
MassDEP

(617)292-5632

[john.fischer@state.ma.us](mailto:john.fischer@state.ma.us)